

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2006, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1, 4, -7, 10-12, 15-18, and 21-23 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10-11, 12, 15-16 and 18 have been amended and claims 3, 9, 14 and 20 have been cancelled. A version of the claims containing markings to show the changes made is included hereinabove. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,737,330 to Fulthorp et al. (hereinafter Fulthorp in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0198244 to Ho et al. (hereinafter Ho). Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fulthorp in view of Ho and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4650171 to Kedar et al. (hereinafter Kedar).

Claims 3-5, 9-11, 14-16 and 20-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of this, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14, and claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20. Accordingly, claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 are believed allowable. Claims 4-6, 10-11, 15-17 and 21-23 depend from claims 1, 7, 12 or 18 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable.

In view of the above, the Examiner's rejections and objections are believed to have been overcome, placing claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 15-18 and 21-23 in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

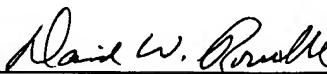
Applicants hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response,

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including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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